

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 08285 270604Z

12

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 L-03 NSF-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3533

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8285

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC KS

SUBJECT: US/KOREAN SCIENCE COOPERATION

1. IN COURSE MID-OCTOBER VISIT TO KOREA U.S. REPRESENTATIVES TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON KOREA/US SCIENCE COOPERATION, AFTER CLEARING THEIR POSITIONS WITH AMBASSADOR, REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THEIR ROK COUNTERPARTS THAT THERE IS STRONG NEED FOR KOREAN NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TO COORDINATE AND SUPPORT UNIVERSITY SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WHICH NOW IN DEPLORABLE CONDITION. IT WAS ALSO AGREED BY ROK/US COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS THAT NSF SHOULD BE WHOLLY ROKG UNDERTAKING, NOT A BINATIONAL ORGANIZATION AS KOREAN SIDE ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED. TO MAKE IT BINATIONAL U.S. SIDE POINTED OUT WOULD CONFUSE TWO SEPARATE OBJECTIVES, NEED FOR KOREAN GOVERNMENT TO SPONSOR PRIVATE AND UNIVERSITY REAEARCH AND NEED TO ENCOURAGE US/KOREAN SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. DURING MEETINGS KOREAN MINISTER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WAS PERSUADED THAT THIS WAS SO AND ACCEPTED U.S. SIDE'S PROMISE OF EFFORT TO SUPPORT NSF WITHOUT INSISTING FOUNDATION SHOULD BE BINATIONAL.

2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR U.S. SCIENCE REPS
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 08285 270604Z

AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR THAT SOME NEW MECHANISM SHOULD BE FOUND

TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE AND GUIDE ROK/US SCIENTIFIC
COOPERATION AND THAT AID DID NOT APPEAR TO BE APPROPRIATE CHANNEL.
HEAD OF GROUP DR. FRANKLIN LONG AGREED TO HELP PROMOTE SEARCH
FOR PROPER MECHANISM ON RETURN TO UNITED STATES. KEY PROBLEM
IN U.S. SCIENTISTS MINDS WOULD BE FINDING WAYS TO SORT OUT AREAS
OF COMMON US/KOREAN INTEREST AND MATCHING UP APPROPRIATE
SCIENTISTS AND PROJECTS. ONE ESSENTIAL INITIAL INGREDIENT IN
DR. LONG'S VIEW WOULD BE ADDITION SCIENCE ATTACHE AT EMBASSY.
SNEIDER

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